



30 Mansell Court, Suite 108  
Roswell, GA 30076  
770-604-9500  
[www.ndscenter.org](http://www.ndscenter.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**CONTACT TAMARA PURSLEY**  
[tamara@ndscenter.org](mailto:tamara@ndscenter.org)  
**(770) 604-9500**

### **NDSC STATEMENT ON OHIO'S *DOWN SYNDROME NON-DISCRIMINATION ACT***

*December 28, 2017, Atlanta, GA - The Down Syndrome Non-Discrimination Act, the Ohio law recently signed by Governor John Kasich, makes it illegal for doctors to perform abortions in cases where prenatal testing reveals the fetus has or likely has Down syndrome. Doctors will face felony charges and possible revocation of their licenses; whereas pregnant women seeking these abortions will not be penalized. Similar legislation, that was passed in Indiana, has been blocked by a federal judge on constitutional grounds.*

The National Down Syndrome Congress (NDSC) has long held that abortion for the sole reason that a fetus has Down syndrome borders on eugenics. However, the organization believes the Ohio legislation will likely be found unconstitutional, and will inhibit honest, open communication between a patient and her doctor. We believe a better approach is to require healthcare providers to provide their patients with accurate, up-to-date information about the realities of having Down syndrome in contemporary America; and, to promote full, meaningful inclusion of all people – with and without disabilities – in every aspect of society.

Towards this end, the NDSC is proud to offer free information to healthcare providers that gives a clear picture of what raising a child with Down syndrome is like, as well as what people with Down syndrome can achieve, at <http://www.ndscenter.org/new-and-expectant-parents/>. NDSC believes that empowering families with accurate, current information about Down syndrome, whether prenatally or postnatally, reshapes the way people understand and experience Down syndrome and helps them as they make their own very personal decisions about their future.

Additionally, the NDSC continues to advocate for policies to improve educational and employment opportunities, strengthen health care and public benefits, and increase research funding for Down syndrome. The NDSC believes that people with Down syndrome are entitled to equal rights and opportunities, should be treated with respect, and that their abilities and contributions to society should be celebrated.

#### **About the National Down Syndrome Congress**

Founded in 1973, the National Down Syndrome Congress is the country's oldest organization for people with Down syndrome, their families, and the professionals who work with them. A 501(c)(3) non-profit advocacy organization, the NDSC provides support and information about issues related to Down syndrome throughout the lifespan, as well as on matters of public policy relating to disability rights. The National Down Syndrome Congress is committed to creating a national climate in which all people will recognize and embrace the value and dignity of people with Down syndrome. For more information about the NDSC, please visit our website at [www.ndscenter.org](http://www.ndscenter.org).

###